An Expoſtulatory APPEAL TO THE *Profeſſors of Chriſtianity,* Joyned in Community with SAMUEL ANSLEY.

IT having pleaſed the Lord (whoſe I am, and whom I ſerve) to call me by his Grace, even in my tender Years; by which Grace he put me upon early ſeekings after himſelf, that ſo I might know him the only true God, and Jeſus Chriſt whom he hath ſent, whom ſavingly to know is Life Eternal.

Many ſore and weary ſteps hath my Anxious Soul troad in finding out the Path that leadeth thereunto, that ſo I might come to a certain knowledge of what God is, and how he ought to be Worſhipped: and this made me go about from one Watch-man of the Night to another, inquiring after my Souls Beloved, to hear if they could tell where his dwelling was, and where he maketh his Flocks to lie down in Reſt.

But oh the uncertain ſound which they gave! ſome ſaid *Lo here,* and others ſaid, *Lo there is he whom thy Soul deſireth*: but alas! when I went out to ſeek him there, I could neither ſee his Shape, nor hear his Voice; then uſed I to retire into my Chamber to ſuplicate him in ſecret, whoſe Preſence I could not meet with in thoſe Publick Aſſemblies; But yet ſtill I looked for

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that at a distance (*viz.*) the Appearance of the Son of God, which was to have been had nearer at hand: sometimes searching over the Records of Scripture, if there I could have found him substantially, whom my Soul greatly desired to see: Oh but there I found him not, although I daily read the Reports which his Ancient Primitive Servants have left there upon record, concerning how they witnessed him, by vertue of the effectual working of his mighty Power in them; but what was this to me? whilst I knew him not my self Experimentally working down Sin and Iniquity in me, and removing that that did let, and would let till it was taken out of the way, that so his own Righteous Scepter might bear rule over me.

And thus as I sought him sorrowing, in an acceptable time was he pleased to appear unto me, (magnified be his Name forever) and to cast up a living way for me; though much contrary to the way I walked in formerly; yet by his good Spirit he so instructed me, that I certainly knew this to be the way that leadeth to Everlasting Felicity: yet I must needs declare, 'tis a Cross Way to the Carnal mind and stubborn will of the fallen Creature; where I now find that I as well others stood by Nature. But now the Lord having pulled my Soul as a Brand out of the Fire, and made me willing in the day of his Power: I can do no less then speak to the praise of his Grace, whose own Arm hath wrought Salvation in and for me thus far.

And now I say, this was the Grace by which I was called, and by which I am in measure saved; even that Grace of which the Apostle speaks, *Tit.* 2. 11, 12, 13, 14. *The Grace of God that bringeth Salvation hath appeared* (mark) *to all men, teaching us that denying Ungodliness and worldly Lusts, we should live Soberly, Righteously, and Godlily in this present World: looking for that blessed Hope and glorious appearing of the great God, and our Saviour Jesus Christ, who gave himself for us, that he might redeem us* (mark) *from all Iniquity, and purifie unto himself a peculiar People, zealous of good Works.*

And now being taught by this Grace, which is the only Principle by which every one may learn to know God savingly, which principle God hath raised up in me to publish and declare to others,

thers, where they ſhould look for the appearance of this ſaving Arm and Grace of God, which alone can burſt the Bonds of Death and ſet the Soul at Liberty.

And beſides the diſpoſition which this gracious Principle hath wrought in me towards all my Fellow-creatures, that they might partake with me, and with the Remnant whom the Lord hath called out of the World; I ſay that all might partake with us of the rich Love of God, with which my Soul is refreſhed at this very time, that now I am writing unto you, I found the God of all grace, laying a more ſpecial Injunction upon me to viſit you particularly; to Proclaim his free Grace and rich Mercy, which he is pleaſed yet to extend towards you: And upon the twentieth day of the eight Moneth, this preſent Year, 1678. in Obedience to that God which made me, and formed my Spirit within me, and by the motion of his good Spirit, did I in fear and much trembling come with a Meſſage from the King of Heaven unto you, which was this, *viz.* To make Proclamation of his univerſal Love towards you; that ſo all who had not wilfully withſtood the tenders of his Mercy and out-ſlipt the Day of your Viſitation (after which the Lord will tary for none of you) ye all might come and be converted from your Iniquities, and he would receive you graciouſly, ſo that none ſhould need to fear their Eternal Predeſtination or Reprobation to Everlaſting Miſery, as though God had fore-ordained ſome for everlaſting Damnation; for God would have all men come to the knowledge of the Truth and be ſaved, as ſaith the holy Apoſtle, *1 Tim.* 2. 4. and (ſaith God) *Look unto me all ye ends of the Earth, and be ye ſaved, Iſa.* 45. 22. Nor may any preſume (in hopes of Mercy) that they are in the eſtate of Election, while they are in the unbelief and diſobedience unto the Spirit of Truth, which Convinces the world of Sin, and leads the Saints into all Truth: for ſo came the Word of the Lord unto me, *Go, invite them to the Feaſt of ingathering, that ſo they may be allured to turn in unto me, and be gathered by me, in this the Day of the ſtretchings forth of the Arms of my Mercy, before I come to ſift the Nations with the Sieve of Vanity, when ſuch as are found Chaffie ſhall*

be blown away with the Whirlwind of my Wrath, and there ſhall be none to deliver you, Iſa. 30. 18.

This Word (in the fear and love of God, which he hath ſhed abroad in my Heart by Jeſus Chriſt abundantly) did I come at that time to Proclaim unto you, with many more ſuch like inviting Expreſſions, would you have had Patience to hear me, I ſhould by divine Aſſiſtance have declared unto you, as I did to ſuch tender-hearted Ones without your Doors, whoſe Ears the Lord inclined to hearken unto me.

And now I find it upon me to write a few words by way of Appeal to you, and to expoſtulate the caſe a little with you: Whether or no you will all juſtifie that Action of haling of me, (who came in the Name and Power of the Lord (and my Siſter who ſtood patiently by me) out from amongſt you. I confeſs I heard no publick Command for it given by any of you; but it was not done by a Perſon unknown to you, but one in Office amongſt you; ſo that had he not had private Commiſſion from ſome one or more of you, for the former knowledge that he had of our blameleſs deportment amongſt you, I dare believe he would not have uſed us ſo Uncharitably, without receiving Reproof from you: Why indeed ſhould he, ſince none of you can juſtly ſay that we gave any Interruption to you? ye are all my witneſſes I waited in ſilence whilſt there was a Voice heard amongſt you, taking that opportunity to open my Mouth unto you, when your Teacher was peruſing ſuch Petitions as uſed to divert him from ſo ſuddain a falling on to Prayers amongſt you: But however, though that time was not ſo long as ordinary, but Prayers begun before I could ſo much as name my Meſſage to you, upon requeſt made me to be ſilent during Prayer time, and a promiſe of being heard afterwards, I tarried till your Worſhip was ended, & then began my Mouth to open unto you; but no ſooner had I charged you with being out of the right way, but you made good that charge immediately, by ſhewing that perſecuting Spirit, which infallibly marks out and deciphers the falſe Church; who hath ever violently handled and hardly uſed the Members of the true: And ſo it became my

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lot at that time to bear a measure of Sufferings from you; but the Lord upheld me by the right Hand of his Power, so that I feared not the wrath of the Adversary; though one more especially shewed himself mightily inraged against me.

Oh! where was your patient Mind, that you could not hear what I had to say unto you, and have tryed what Spirit I had been of, that so, if in Error, by sound Argument you might have convinced me.

Oh! where was your *Christian* Moderation that ought to be shewed towards all, whereby you should have manifested the Lord to be at hand.

Oh! where was your Lamb-like Meekness, by which you would have instructed such as should have opposed you, had you been in the Truth? But whilst you profess the Name of Christ (who is Truth it self) you are found in the Spirit of Antichrist, otherwise you would not have so roughly treatted the Guiltless; nay, if we had been guilty, we ought to have had a more fair Tryal and Examination before you, ere such hasty Execution should have proceeded from you.

This therefore briefly is written in the Spirit of Love, and sent to you, that all sober Inquirers may have a true Accompt of the Occasion of our coming amongst you that day; And let none be offended that I take not in their Teacher with them, so as to appeal to him as well as them; for the Lord knoweth, 'tis not in any Enmity I bear towards him; but as I formerly have had an high Esteem of him, so I still do retain a kind and friendly Respect for him; but having privately addres's'd my self unto him, whereby to render the Reason of my turning from him, in answer to which (he himself knows) I received not so much as one word to give me any Satisfaction, but had a hasty Put-by from him, which may very well excuse me in not making a second Application unto him.

However, my Soul desires the real Welfare of all men, and have written this neither in Envy nor Ostentation, but in answer to the Requirings of the Lord, before whom my Heart is broken at this time; and now in much godly Compassion have

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I a Remembrance of ſuch as have ſincere Deſires amongſt you, and I doubt not but that the Lord in tender Mercy, and for his own Seed's ſake, that cryeth to him for Deliverance in and amongſt you, will in due time reach forth his powerful ſaving Arm unto ſuch of you, whereby you ſhall be gathered into a place of Safety, before his Over-flowing Scourge be made to paſs over you.

Let this therefore be a Provocation unto you ſpeedily to turn into the ſecret of your own Souls, to the Appearance of his Son, Chriſt Jeſus, who there ſpeaks from Heaven unto you, reproving you for your Sin and Iniquity, and exciting of you to Holineſs and Purity; who by his Heavenly Light in your Conſciences, if you give up to be led and guided by it, will bring ſuch of you as are now even as Loſt Sheep of the Houſe of *Iſrael* home to the Fold of Reſt.

Which is the hearty Deſire and earneſt Breathing of her who is known to many of you by the Name of

ELIZABETH BATHURST.

And now having invited you to turn unto the Lord, both by Word and Writing, I am clear concerning you at this time.

UNto you, People, unto whom this Meſſage is ſent, a few words doth lie with weight upon my Spirit, to put you in remembrance of dayes paſt, and that you may call to mind the Promiſes you did make to the Lord when your Hearts were tendered before him, becauſe of the Judgments that then ſeem'd to awaken you; but ſo ſoon as the Hand of the Lord turned back, and with-held from ſmiting, Oh! who then amongſt you were faithful to thoſe Promiſes? ſo that may I not ſay, that neither the Mercies nor Judgments of the Lord have ſo awakened you as to turn to him by Unfeigned Repentance? for whoſe ſake the Lord hath put in my Heart to mind you, for the ſake of your immortal Souls, that you may be awakened to a ſpeedy turning to the Lord, that you may not provoke the Lord to with-hold his Spirit from ſtriving with you.

Written in Obedience to the Lord,
by your Friend

ANNE BATHURST.

THE END.